



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Implementing Executive Order 13508 to Protect and Restore the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

TO: Assistant Administrators
Associate Administrators
Judith Enck, Region II Administrator
Shawn Garvin, Region III Administrator

On May 12, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13508, Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Protection, and on May 12, 2010, the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay issued the attached Strategy for Protection and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Executive Order began a new era of shared federal leadership, in collaboration with state partners and the District of Columbia, for protecting and restoring the Chesapeake. The Administrator and I thank you for your efforts to produce a bold and comprehensive strategy so quickly.

Strong implementation of this strategy is among the highest priorities for the EPA. To meet the strategy's goals to restore clean water, the EPA must continue to be well organized and stay focused on accomplishing multiple, demanding tasks. We must continue to reach across program boundaries and achieve a unique level of cooperation with our federal agency partners and state and local officials in the watershed. This memorandum sets forth key elements and responsibilities for building and implementing our Chesapeake Bay Action Agenda.

Implementation of the Executive Order Strategy and Management of the Federal Leadership Committee:

Peter Silva, Assistant Administrator for Water, will continue to lead the EPA in implementing the Executive Order. Assistant Administrator Silva also will continue to serve as the designee to lead the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay and support the Administrator in her role as chairwoman of the committee.

One immediate priority for Assistant Administrator Silva, with the full and ongoing management support of James Edward, Acting Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, will be to develop and implement an EPA Action Agenda, outlining the bold steps necessary to carry out the Executive Order beginning with a series of actions over the next 100 days.

Assistant Administrator Silva, supported by Acting Director Edward, will convene meetings of the Federal Leadership Committee, lead preparation of the annual action plans and progress reports called for in the Executive Order, coordinate efforts of participating federal agencies, and lead development of federal two-year milestones for bay protection and restoration.

Management of Three Highest Priorities - Agriculture, Stormwater, and Total Maximum Daily Load/Watershed Implementation Plans:

The Administrator and I ask Region III Administrator Shawn Garvin and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water Nancy Stoner to oversee work on several of the highest priorities for Chesapeake Bay restoration: reducing pollution from the agriculture and urban/suburban sectors and developing a Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load supported by strong State Watershed Implementation Plans. It is critical that the EPA work closely with our co-regulators in the states and the District of Columbia. The Region III Administrator and Deputy Assistant Administrator will be supported by Jeff Corbin, Senior Advisor to the Region III Administrator, and Tom Wall, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Administrator for Water.

Protecting and restoring the Bay will require EPA and co-regulators to use all available tools, including rulemaking, permitting, permit oversight, compliance assistance and enforcement, and may require the development of new programs or activities. The Administrator and I ask senior managers in all Offices assigned to lead or participate in efforts included in EPA's Chesapeake Bay Action Agenda to do all you can to make these efforts a success. The Administrator and I will continue to rely upon J. Charles Fox, Senior Advisor, to advise us on matters related to the Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River.

We have a historic opportunity to protect and restore the bay and to demonstrate new tools and actions that can be a model for efforts to protect and restore other large aquatic ecosystems. Thank you again for your help as we strive to restore what President Obama has called a "national treasure."



Bob Perciasepe

Attachment

cc: Administrator
Regional Administrators
Bob Sussman, Senior Policy Counsel to the Administrator
Lawrence Elworth, Agriculture Counsel to the Administrator
J. Charles Fox, Senior Advisor to the Administrator
James Edward, Acting Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Office
Water Division Directors, Regions 1-10
Large Aquatic Ecosystem Program Managers